

Commission's annual report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4843. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Semiannual Report relative to the Board's activities and accomplishments during the period of April 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4844. A communication from the President, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's annual report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4845. A communication from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4846. A communication from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Gallery's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4847. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Institution's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2562. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2563. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2564. A bill to make certain reforms with respect to the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2565. A bill to establish an awards mechanism to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by Federal law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2566. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a Federal income tax credit for certain home purchases; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 2567. A bill to provide Federal reimbursement to State and local governments for a limited sales, use, and retailers' occupation tax holiday; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2568. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit

preleasing, leasing, and related activities in the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea Planning Areas unless certain conditions are met; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 2569. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Cancer Institute to make grants for the discovery and validation of biomarkers for use in risk stratification for, and the early detection and screening of, ovarian cancer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 2570. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to authorize waivers by the Commissioner of Social Security of the 5-month waiting period for entitlement to benefits based on disability in cases in which the Commissioner determines that such waiting period would cause undue hardship to terminally ill beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2571. A bill to make technical corrections to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 433. A resolution honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and selfless service to the United States have led to more than 1 million lives saved over the course of its long and storied 217-year history; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 434. A resolution designating the week of February 10-16, 2008, as "National Drug Prevention and Education Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 435. A resolution recognizing the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SMITH):

S. Res. 436. A resolution designating the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008, as "National School Counseling Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 911, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to establish an adolescent literacy program.

S. 1018

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1018, a bill to address security risks posed by global climate change and for other purposes.

S. 1177

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1177, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish a national uniform multiple air pollutant regulatory program for the electric generating sector.

S. 1794

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1794, a bill to amend the Federal Direct Loan Program to provide that interest shall not accrue on Federal Direct Loans for active duty service members and their spouses.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the expedition, and for other purposes.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2115, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend for 6 months the eligibility period for the "Welcome to Medicare" physical examination and to provide for the coverage and waiver of cost-sharing for preventive services under the Medicare program.

S. 2146

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2146, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical verification program.

S. 2396

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2396, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to modernize the quality improvement organization (QIO) program.

S. 2405

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to provide additional appropriations for payments under section 2604(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2439, a bill to require the National Incident Based Reporting System, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange Program to list cruelty to animals as a separate offense category.

S. 2543

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2543, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 2555

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to permit California and other States to effectively control greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, a resolution recognizing the increasingly mutually beneficial relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia.

S. RES. 429

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 429, a resolution honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the confiscation of over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007.

S. RES. 431

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 431, a resolution calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 432, a resolution urging the international community to provide the United Nations-African Union Mission in Sudan with essential tactical and utility helicopters.

AMENDMENT NO. 3900

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3900 proposed to S. 1200, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 3919

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3919 intended to be proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2562. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation designed to extend permanent normal trade relations to Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is still subject to the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974, which sanctions nations for failure to comply with freedom of emigration requirements. This bill would repeal permanently the application of Jackson-Vanik to Kazakhstan.

In the post-Cold-War era, Kazakhstan has demonstrated a commitment to meet these requirements, and in addition, has expressed a strong desire to abide by free market principles and good governance. Since 1992, Kazakhstan has been certified annually as meeting the Jackson-Vanik requirements. This legislation would make this trade relationship permanent and, in so doing, stimulate further market reforms and encourage a commitment to safeguarding individual liberties.

The U.S. has a long record of cooperation with Kazakhstan through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction. Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world with the fall of the Soviet Union. Through the Nunn-Lugar Program the United States has assisted Kazakhstan in eliminating this deadly arsenal and joining the Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state.

Earlier this month, a team of American scientists working under the Nunn-Lugar Program quietly entered Kazakhstan in sub-zero temperatures to begin the careful packaging of bubonic and pneumonic plague samples in accordance with international safety standards for the transport of dangerous biological materials. I am pleased to inform my Senate colleagues that the samples have been safely transported on a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, Colorado. It marked the successful completion of a 5-year negotiation to secure, transport and develop a research program for the pathogens.

Cooperative research by American and Kazakhstani scientists will develop prevention and cure possibilities for this deadly plague. It provides new hope for places where the disease is naturally occurring and helps deter the plague's use as a bio-terror weapon. As many may know, Plague is a highly lethal disease spread from rodents to humans by fleas. It caused the Black Death which swept across Europe in the 14th century. It is estimated that 20-30 million Europeans died—perhaps as much as half of the continent's population at the time. An estimated 75 million people worldwide died from the Black Plague.